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BIOGRAPHIES OF CZECHOSLOVAK SCIENTISTS

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## BIOGRAPHIES OF CZECHOSLOVAK SCIENTISTS

-Czechoslovakia-

[Following are the translations of three biographic articles on the Czech scientists listed below in the table of contents. Source information is included with each of the articles.]

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PROF MILOSLAV MATOUSEK, M.D.

[Following is a translation of an article entitled "K" sedesatým narozeninám prof. MUDr. Miloslava Matouska" (Sixtieth birthday of Prof Miloslav Matousek, M.D.), by Dr. E. Rozsivalova in Casopis Lékárů Českých (Journal of Czech Doctors), Vol XCIX, No 35, 26 August 1960, pages 1119-1120.]

Dr. Miloslav Matousek, M.D., professor of the history of medicine at the Palacky University at Olomouc, will celebrate his 60th birthday on 29 August 1960. This foremost representative of the Czechoslovak history of medicine has reached a significant jubilee of his life. His life is marked by lengthy and untiring work in the field of history of medicine where he supports the basis of historical and dialectical materialism and thus places the history of medicine on a firm scientific basis, without which it could never be an important medical science. Prof Matousek strives for the treatment of the history of medicine as a fully recognized medical science that has its place and significance in today's medical sciences.

His life and work were evaluated on his 50th birthday. Today's remarks I wish to devote to his versatile activity of recent years, namely from 1955 which he has spent as professor of the History of Medicine at the Palacky University at Olomouc, the only professor of such a field in Czechoslovakia.

At the Medical School in Olomouc, Prof Matousek at first headed the Department of History of Medicine that he himself established, and since 1956 he has been chairman of the Institute of the History of Medicine. Thus, through Prof Matousek's help, another institute (besides the one in Prague) was created for this field in Czechoslovakia.

Since 1955 Prof Matousek regularly (except for the school year 1957/58) offers an hourly lecture during the winter semester in the History of Medicine for sixth-year medical students. For first-year students Prof Matousek offers "Introduction to the Study of Medicine," a yearly two-hour course on the History of Medicine. In 1958, for first-year medical students, Prof Matousek offered hourly lectures "Introduction to the Study of Medicine" and in 1959 he also offered a two-hour course on the primary principles of the socialist student's morality.

In his teaching, Prof Matousek does not forget the basic principles of successful teaching, i.e., teaching aid in the history of science. Already in 1947 he published Stručné dějiny českého lékařství moderní doby (Brief History of Modern Day Czech Medicine). In 1956 he published Stručný kurs dějin lékařství (Brief Course in the History of Medicine). The following year he prepared Morálka socialistického lékaře (Morality of a Socialist Doctor). In 1958 he published Úvod do dějin zdravotnictví doby otrokarské a feudální (Introduction to the History of

Medicine in the Period of Slavery and Feudalism). In 1959 appeared his methodological handbook Uvod do studia dejin lekarstvi (Introduction to the Study of the History of Medicine). The Czech language lacked such works as those published in 1956, 1957 and 1958, which have become the principal teaching aids of medical students. Uvod do studia dejin lekarstvi is aimed rather toward those interested in active pursuit in the history of medicine rather than for students in general.

In this field Prof Matousek developed his work in scientific experimentation and organizational method as richly as his pedagogical activities. From the beginning of his work in the field of the History of Medicine, i.e., from 1931 until today, he published 190 works dealing with the history of medicine, 21 of which are in book form.

In his works on the history of medicine, Prof Matousek deals primarily with the development of Czech and Slovak Medicine in the 19th and 20th centuries (Antonin Jungmann, Vil. Petrs, Vil. Dus. Lambl, Jos. Thomayer). However, he does not neglect the development of medicine in the USSR and the People's Democracies, and their relationship to the development of Czech Medical Science. Neither does he forget the progressive sides of development of medicine in other nations and calls attention to them in appropriate articles. Prof Matousek's research is focused on the history of Czech medicine in the 19th century.

In his expert writing and lecturing, Prof Matousek devotes more and more of his attention to questions of the morality of the socialist doctor and the socialist health official, questions of great importance for the future development of our medical sciences and sanitation. In addition to the manual for students he treated morality in medicine in his magazine articles "Ethics in Medicine" (Lekarskej Obzor / Medical Review / 1958, p. 129), "The Question of Morality in Medicine," (Tvorba, / Creation / 1958 p. 431), and in independent publications Za Socialistickou moralku zdravotnickych pracovníku (In Support of Socialist Morality of the Health Workers), Gottwaldow, 1959 and Moralka Socialistického Zdravotníka (Morality of a Socialist Health Worker), written in collaboration with M. Fucik, Boh. Spacek, Ant. Tryb, Prague, 1959.

Prof Matousek treats the relations between Czech and Slovak doctors on the one hand and doctors of USSR, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, and other nations on the other hand, not only in the past and in theory, but he also gives strong support to these relations. In 1957 he went to Warsaw to the Eighth Congress of Polish Medical Historians (10-14 June). At the Congress he read a paper on "The Development and Contemporary Status of the History of Medicine in Czechoslovakia". In 1957 he also published a book on this theme. In 1959 this work was translated into Russian and appeared in the USSR under the title Razvitiye i sovremennoye sostoyaniye istorii meditsini v Chekhoslovakii (The Development and Contemporary Status of the History of Medicine in Czechoslovakia). In 1957 Prof Matousek undertook a study tour of Bulgaria, where he also lectured at the Medical School in Sofia. In 1958 he participated in the Sixteenth International Congress on the

History of Medicine in Montpellier, France. In February 1959, Prof Matousek visited the All-Union Conference of Soviet Historians in Leningrad, where he delivered a lecture on "The Tasks of the History of Medicine in the Countries of the Socialist Camp." In October 1959 he participated in the Jan Ev. Purkyne celebrations in Wroclaw and 31 October-1 November in the J. Ev. Purkyne Symposium in Halle/Saale (GDR) where he delivered a paper "Purkyne and Today."

Recently Prof Matousek published a number of articles in foreign periodicals (Soviet, Polish, Hungarian and Italian) specializing in the history of medicine, in order to further the relations with other countries and successfully propagate the Czechoslovak History of Medicine. He is also a constant contributor to Meditinskiy Referativniy Zhurnal, IV, (Medical Review) Moscow.

Prof Matousek cares for the development of the history of medicine in Czechoslovakia not only by his own publications but also by participating in the scientific and organizational activities in this field. Since 1956 he has been chairman of the Circle of Historians of Medicine in Olomouc. He is also a member of the Commission for History of Medical, Natural, and Technical Sciences at the CSAV (Ceskoslovenska Akademie Ved -- Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences). The newest and most important task assigned to him is chairmanship of the newly created (1959) Main Problematic Commission for the History of Medicine and Medical Care under the Science Board of the Ministry of Health. In this manner Prof Matousek enters a new field in which to utilize his scientific work in the history of medicine and for which work he gained appraisal not only in Czechoslovakia, but also in a number of other countries.

Prof Matousek evolves an effort for the history of medicine which aids the proper understanding of the problems of medicine and proper orientation of medical thought. He strives for our history of medicine to speak for today and to help the socialist doctor correctly grasp his tasks, especially those tasks relating to society.

DR. JINDRICH BRESKY, M.D.

[Following is the translation of an article entitled "MUDr. Jindrich Bresky padesatiletý" (Fiftieth birthday of Dr. Jindrich Bresky, M.D.), by Dr. Miroslav Zitka in Casopis Lekarů Ceských (Journal of Czech Doctors), Vol XCIX, No 35, 26 August 1960, p. 1120.]

Dr. Jindrich Bresky, M.D., head of the Second Division of Internal Medicine at the Motol Hospital, celebrates his fiftieth birthday on 19 August 1960.

He entered clinical life immediately after receiving his degree in 1935 as a practitioner in external medicine at Prof Pelnar's Second Clinic of Internal Medicine. At that same clinic he became, first, a second assistant and, later, a full assistant. Here he worked 10 years, even during the occupation, and finally, under the supervision of the former dean, Dr. Vancura. During the 1945 May turmoil he was invited by Prof Charvat to transfer to the newly organized Clinic for Internal Medicine III, as an assistant. Here he participated in all the work pertaining to the new administration of the clinic and since he had at his command the whole area of internal medicine and excellent pedagogical and administrative abilities, he is mainly responsible for the speedy adjustment of the new clinic. Since 1952 he has been vice-chairman of the clinic and in charge of interns. In 1951-54 he acted as the representative of the principal doctor of internal medicine with the UNV (Ustřední Národní Výbor -- Central National Committee) in Prague. He was a member of various commissions and named an examiner in the final state qualifying examinations in internal medicine and in second year examinations in internal medicine. He worked at the Academician Charvat's Third Clinic of Internal Medicine until the end of 1959 and, with the beginning of the new year, assumed chairmanship of the Division of Internal Medicine in Motol.

He had the great fortune of being a student of the great teachers Pelnar, Vancura and Charvat. He became a precise clinical doctor, excellent diagnostician and therapist. Educated in general medicine, his special love was pneumology, and at the clinic he established a pneumological counselling service which he headed for several years. His scientific works have a clinical orientation and critical conclusions. He fully utilized his practical experience and knowledge of medicine in his lectures for both medical students and doctors. His attitude is critical, energetic, strict both toward himself and others, just and honest; he is a good organizer with wide interests that reach beyond medicine.

His 50th birthday finds him in good health, with attention focused towards new great work that awaits him in the building of a new institute and in the training of other doctors and medical personnel. And all of us who love and respect him, wish him much good health and strength toward such future goals.



PROF DR. VACLAV SVAB

Following is the translation of an article entitled "Sedesatiny prof. dr. Vaclava Svaba" (Sixtieth Birthday of Prof Dr. Vaclav Svab) by Prof Dr. Jan Bastecky, in Casopis Lekarů Ceských (Journal of Czech Doctors), Vol XCIX, No 38, 16 September 1960, pp 1186-1187.

If we examine the history of roentgenologists, we see that if their first generation was made up of roentgenologists who can rightfully claim the name "pioneers," their second generation is made up of their younger colleagues and pupils, and the third generation is the so called "younger" generation. This division can be seen beautifully in Swedish roentgenology, headed by Forssell in the first generation; Akerlund, Lysholm, Berven and Heyman in the second generation; and Lindblom, Lingren, Hultberg, Welin, etc. in the third generation. And such is the state with all radiologists who have from the first participated in the shaping of this new discipline.

It is to the credit of Czech roentgenology that it too contains three generations: the first with the unforgettable pioneer R. Jedlicka and the second with A. Sigmund and others. Then comes the third generation, which until recently was called the "younger," whose members are now reaching their 60th birthdays and are already being succeeded by further generations.

One of the outstanding members of this third, "younger" generation is Prof Dr. Svab, chairman of the Radiological Clinic of the Faculty of General Medicine in Prague, who reached the age of 60 on 4 August 1960. As far as his spiritual activity, physical fitness and productive elan are concerned, he belongs to the younger generation, regardless of the quotation marks.

Prof Svab is the leading roentgenologist of our generation, whether seen through his scientific and teaching contributions, or through his organizational, editorial and other contributions, and as such is recognized not only here, but also abroad. The following lines bear witness to such an acclaim.

One could say that Prof Svab became the prototype of a Czech roentgenologist in the best possible meaning of the word and on a high international scale.

Prof Dr. Svab was born 4 August 1900 in Hlasnice, Policka Okres, into a family of a middle farmer. He studied at the classical gymnasium at Straznice, where he graduated in 1919. He studied medicine at the Karlova University (KU) Medical School in Prague. He received his degree on 15 January 1926. After the degree he worked at Prof Rychlik's surgical division in Pisek, at first as an external doctor, then as a second class assistant until 30 September 1927, when he left to go to Prague as an assistant roentgenologist at Prof Jirasek's surgical clinic, where he worked until 30 September 1937. When Dr. Svab



came to Prague, he was already an expert roentgenologist and already at that time he amazed us with his knowledge. Until April 1941 he worked at the Jirasek Clinic as an assistant without pay. At the same time he was the roentgenologist of the First Prague Hospital Insurance Agency, later known as the Insurance Agency for Private Employees, until the end of 1945. During the war, until 31 July 1945, he was also in charge of the Roentgenology Division of the former State Hospital at Kralovske Vinohrady (Prague - Vinohrady). After the May 1945 revolution he was entrusted with the supervision of the Radiological Clinic of the KU Medical School in Prague.

Prof Svab served as a resident instructor in roentgenology in 1934. On 6 June 1946 he became visiting professor in Roentgenology and radiation treatment and simultaneously was named chairman of the Radiological Clinic, effective retroactively to 1 June 1945. This was the first Radiological Clinic in Czechoslovakia and he is still its chairman.

He is a member of the Science Board of the KU School of General Medicine, a member of the Science Advisory Board of the Ministry of Health, and a member of the central examining commission for certification in Roentgenology at the Institute for Supplementary Doctor Education.

Prof Svab's scientific activity is broad in scope and primarily concerned with roentgenology. In all, he has published 93 works in the field of diagnosis and therapy. His orientation is mainly toward the bone and joint system and the digestive tract. He especially devoted himself to the observation of bone changes in leukemia patients, both children and adult, and as a result of his findings, was invited to be the principal speaker at the 1951 VII International Congress on Radiology in London, and to present the main paper on bone porosity at the IX International Congress on Radiology in 1959. Due to unfortunate circumstances, he was unable to attend either of the two congresses. There is a great number of problems connected with bone and digestive tract roentgenology that became his favorite field. Beside these, he devoted himself to the wide diagnostical spectre rtg, lung problems, urogenital tract and others. He and Dr. Bilek were our first men to treat the problem of stomach cancer.

Another large area of his work is in radiation therapy: treatment of tumors of the breast, tonsils, pharynx, larynx, rectum, then leukemia, nerve tumors and others. On the whole, these works are outstanding and designate an epoch of development of rtg therapeutic means, especially on larynx cancer.

Prof Svab also published a number of works abroad; in German, French, English and Serbian.

Beside that he has several manuscripts ready for publication.

He added chapters to Jirasek's monograph Nahle Prihody brisni (Sudden Stomach Ailments), Rapant's Rakovina zaludku a a kardi (Cancer of the Stomach and Cardiac), Knobloch's Obecna Chirurgie (General Surgery) and he prepared a chapter on the bone and joint systems and urine organism for Lekarska Radiologie (Medical Radiology), designed for medical students.

On the whole Svab's works have high scientific value, are accurately conceived and stylized and bring positive and often original values. They were so convincing that Svab was unafraid to polemicize with such a renown roentgenologist-osteologist as the Viennese Kienboeck in 1939 on the question of osteodystrophia cystica fibrosa generalisata.

Prof Svab and his school are doing research on the little known bone changes that occur after rtg radiation, after electric current injury, etc. In this manner he forges the way for the introduction of new methods and gains new information.

As a teacher, Prof Svab trained one docent, a number of physicians in charge, assistant physicians, and second assistants.

Prof Svab has fully devoted himself to public and organizational life. At first it was the Roentgenology and Radiology Association of Czechoslovakia, to which he devoted and still gives his abilities and support. From 1931 he was a member of the Association's Board and discharged various functions. From 1945 to 1959 he was the president of this organization and now is its first vice-president. The Association is indebted to him and his colleagues for its steady progress. He organized its conventions and suggested and directed the themes of a majority of them.

A good deal of credit goes to Prof Svab in the development of the Association. Due to him, it presently carries high prestige, has a valuable content at its conventions and monthly meetings and a constant and large circle of attendants. In this way Prof Svab did a great deal for the development of Czechoslovak radiology.

Beside his work for the Association, he has a number of other functions. Prior to the end of the war and afterwards, he was the chairman of the Revolutionary National Committee in the State Hospital of Vinohrady. After the revolution he joined in departmental activities and worked in various other medical organizations and associations. Namely, from 1945 to 1951, he was the president of the Society of Czech physicians, with only a year-long interruption. For several years he was vice-president of the Gastroenterological Society of Czechoslovakia and Biophysics Society of Czechoslovakia. In 1957, at the School of General Medicine, he organized and presided over the CSCK. From 1957 he is a member of the Central Youth Commission under the Central Committee of the CSCK. He also has the function of a regional roentgenologist of the Stredocesky Kraj (Central-Bohemian District). Since its establishment, he is a member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Association for the Propagation of Political and Scientific Information and the chairman of its medical section. Furthermore he still has a number of other functions.

The large number of functions make demands on his time and work, but Prof Svab's habit is active participation.

Prof Svab is not only credited with the Spolecnost, but also with its publications. Since 1942 he was a co-editor and since 1950 the chief editor of Ceskoslovenska Rentgenologie (Czechoslovak Roentgenology), formerly known as Acta Radiologica et Cancerologica Bohemo-Slovenica.

He is also on the editorial staff of foreign periodicals, namely, Radiologia Clinica in Bazil; Excerpta Medica-sekce Radiologie in Amsterdam; and Radiologia Diagnostica in Berlin.

Furthermore he is a co-editor of the Encyklopedia Praktickeho Lekare (Encyclopedia of the Practical Physician) and a member of the staff of Mala Moderni Encyklopedia (Brief Modern Encyclopedia).

Editorial work, especially editorship of Ceskoslovenska Rentgenologie take much of his time and energy. In this field the Czechoslovak roentgenology is also much indebted to him for the continual progress of its journal. In this direction, the partial success at the School of General Medicine in Prague is due to his work.

In 1929, Prof Svab became acquainted with the chairman of the German rtg Institute and in 1933 he worked at Prof Schnitz's rtg Division in Zurich.

At all times he participated actively in a number of Roentgenological Congresses in Vienna, Berlin, Paris, Sophia, Belgrade, Lublin, Leipzig, Stockholm and Warsaw. As was already mentioned, he was invited to present the principal papers at the VII International Congress in London and IX International Roentgenological Congress in Munich.

He is a member of a number of physicians' scientific societies. He is a regular member of the Societe Francaise de Radiologie et d'Electrologie in Paris and was elected a corresponding member of the Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft fur Roentgenologie in the German Democratic Republic.

Prof Svab devoted himself to propagation of sanitation in a number of lectures and articles, especially to the proper direction in the instruction on malignant tumors and protection against the effects of ionizing radiation.

Prof Svab has an active interest in contemporary political and cultural activities. His introductory addresses at the Association Conventions and appropriate speeches at the monthly meetings were always directed toward contemporary political situation and pointed toward uncompromising approach to our road toward socialism. Also in this direction, Prof Svab appeared with a number of appropriate articles.

By all of this one can see Prof Dr. Svab's great versatility and one can hardly believe that one man can do so many things. Yet, such is the case.

Regardless of his many-sided activities, Prof Svab always remains calm, kind, smiling, friendly, always willing to give advice and help, spiritually and physically fit and never aging. Not mentioning some blood changes that -- as it appears -- have recently stabilized, he enjoys good health needless to say to his and our great joy.

Prof Dr. Vaclav Svab did a lot for Czechoslovak roentgenology; he gave it direction and raised its quality in all phases. He is its outstanding representative.

We are well aware of Prof Dr. Svab's great work and yet there still remain many phases of it that were not given sufficient evaluation.

One needs to thank Prof Dr. Svab for everything he did for

Czechoslovak roentgenology and we all wish him much health and favorable working conditions in the many years ahead!

To Prof Dr. Svab belongs honest recognition for all of his contributions to Czechoslovak roentgenology.